

Burlington Police Department Racial Disparities in Traffic Policing

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Focus of analysis

- The analysis concentrates on traffic stops and outcomes that are the result of **officer discretion**.
- We therefore ignore externally generated stops & arrests on a warrant.

Four indicators

1. **Stop rates** by race compared to racial shares of the population
2. Share of outcomes that lead to:
 - **Ticket** (versus a warning)
 - **Arrest**
 - **Search**
3. Searches that yield **contraband**
4. **Officer disparities** in stop rates

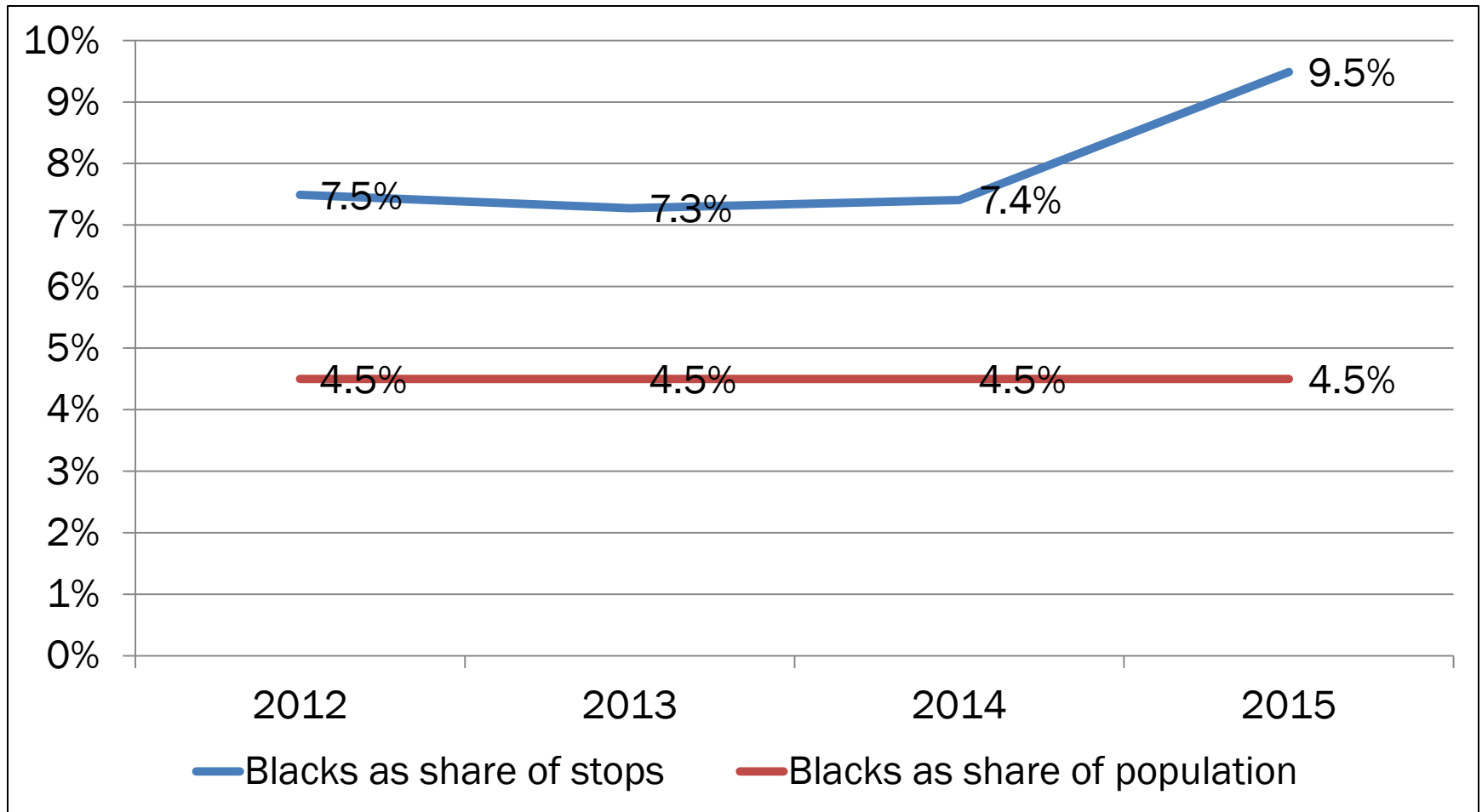
The data

- Results for 2012 - 2015
 - Averages for 2012-2015.
 - Annual trends from 2012 to 15
 - Focus on white and black outcomes.

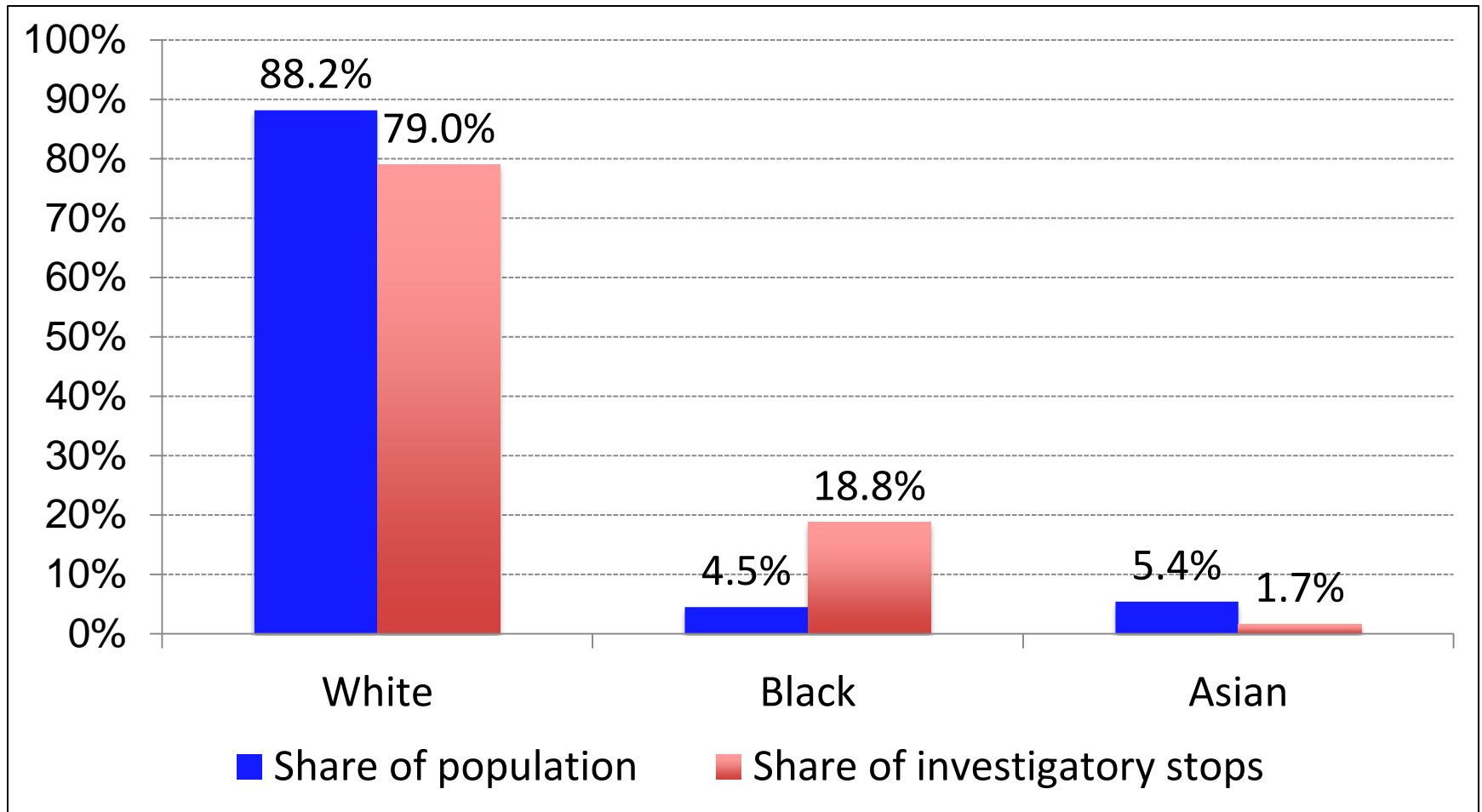
2012-15

	Whites	Blacks	Hispanics	Asians
Share of Traffic Stops	87.2%	7.9%	0.7%	4.1%
Share of Population	88.2%	4.5%		5.4%
Ticket rate	28.2%	35.9%	27.9%	25.9%
Warning rate	69.4%	61.6%	70.3%	72.0%
Arrest rates	1.2%	1.4%	0.8%	1.1%
Search Rate	1.1%	3.3%	5.0%	0.1%
“Hit” Rate	63.5%	46.2%	28.6%	0.0%

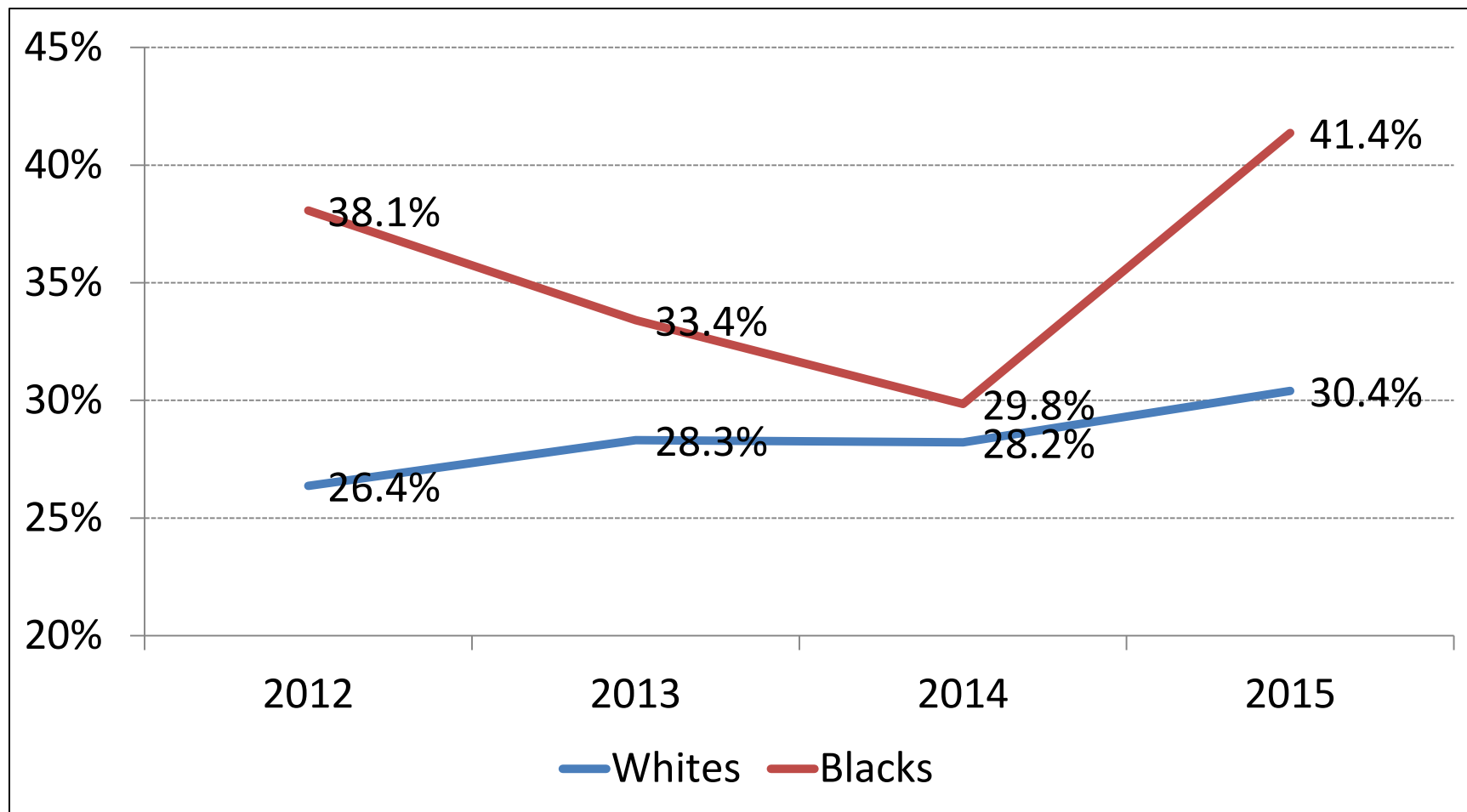
Blacks as share of stops and population, 2012-15



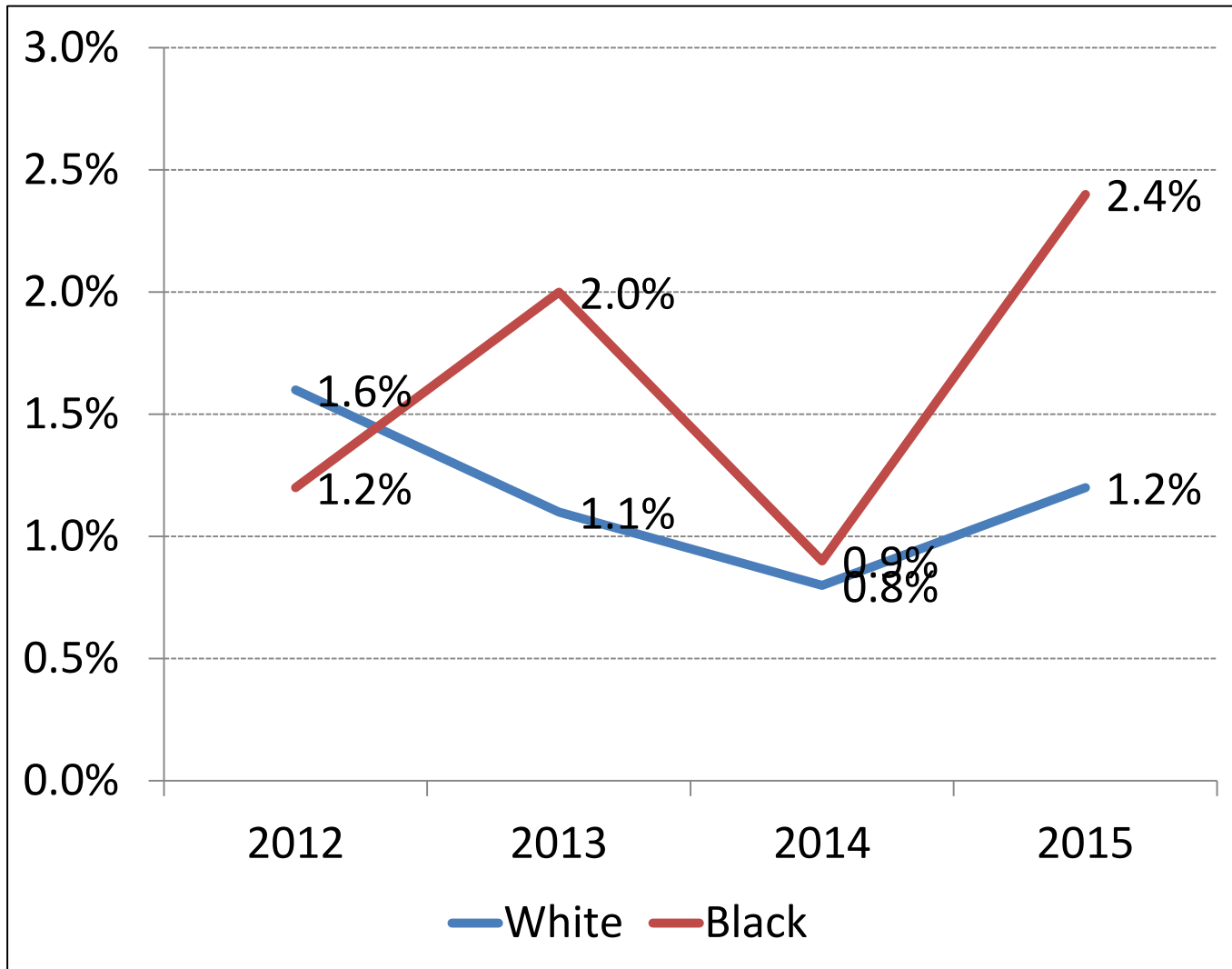
Investigatory Stops by Race



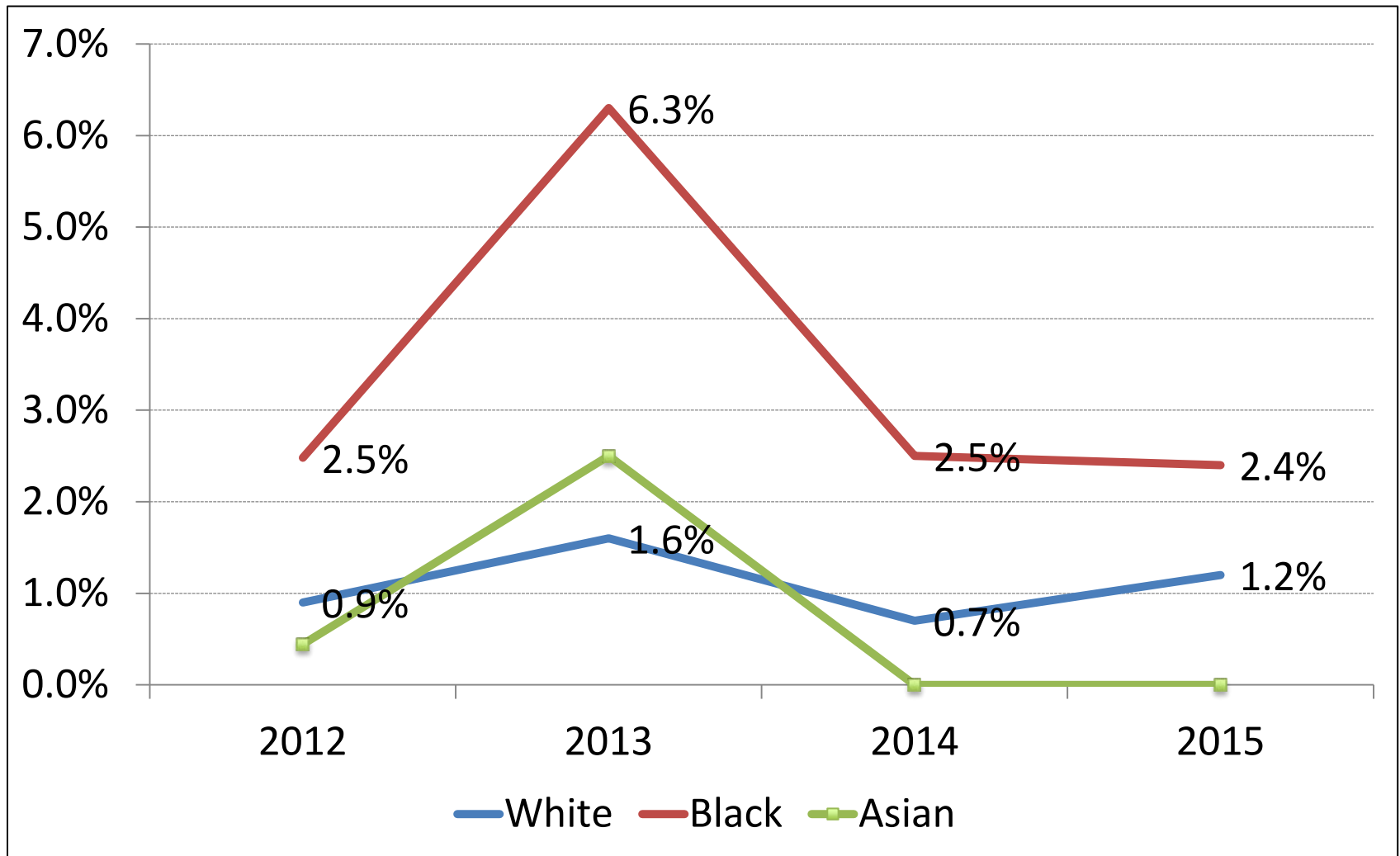
Black and white ticket rates



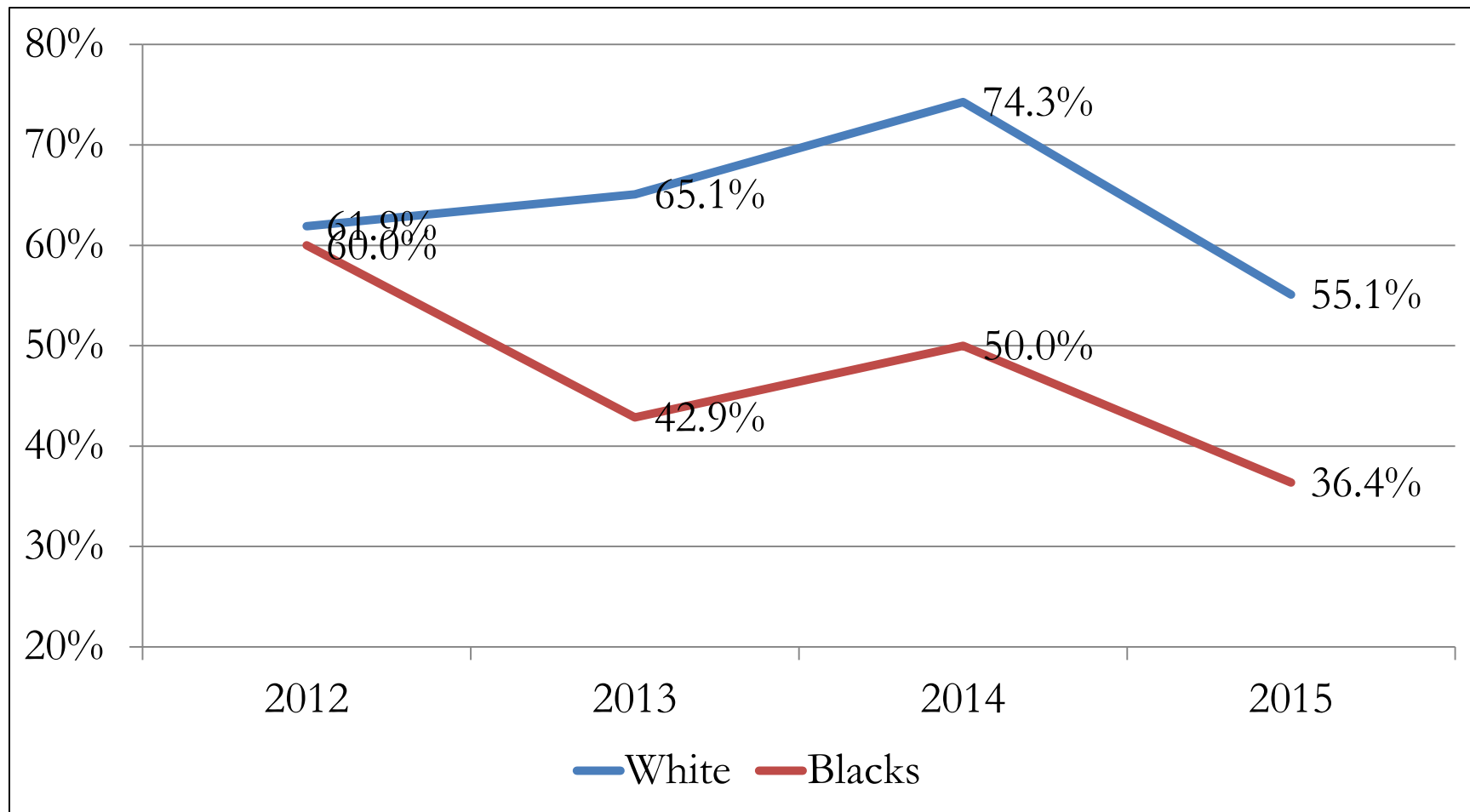
Black and white arrest rates



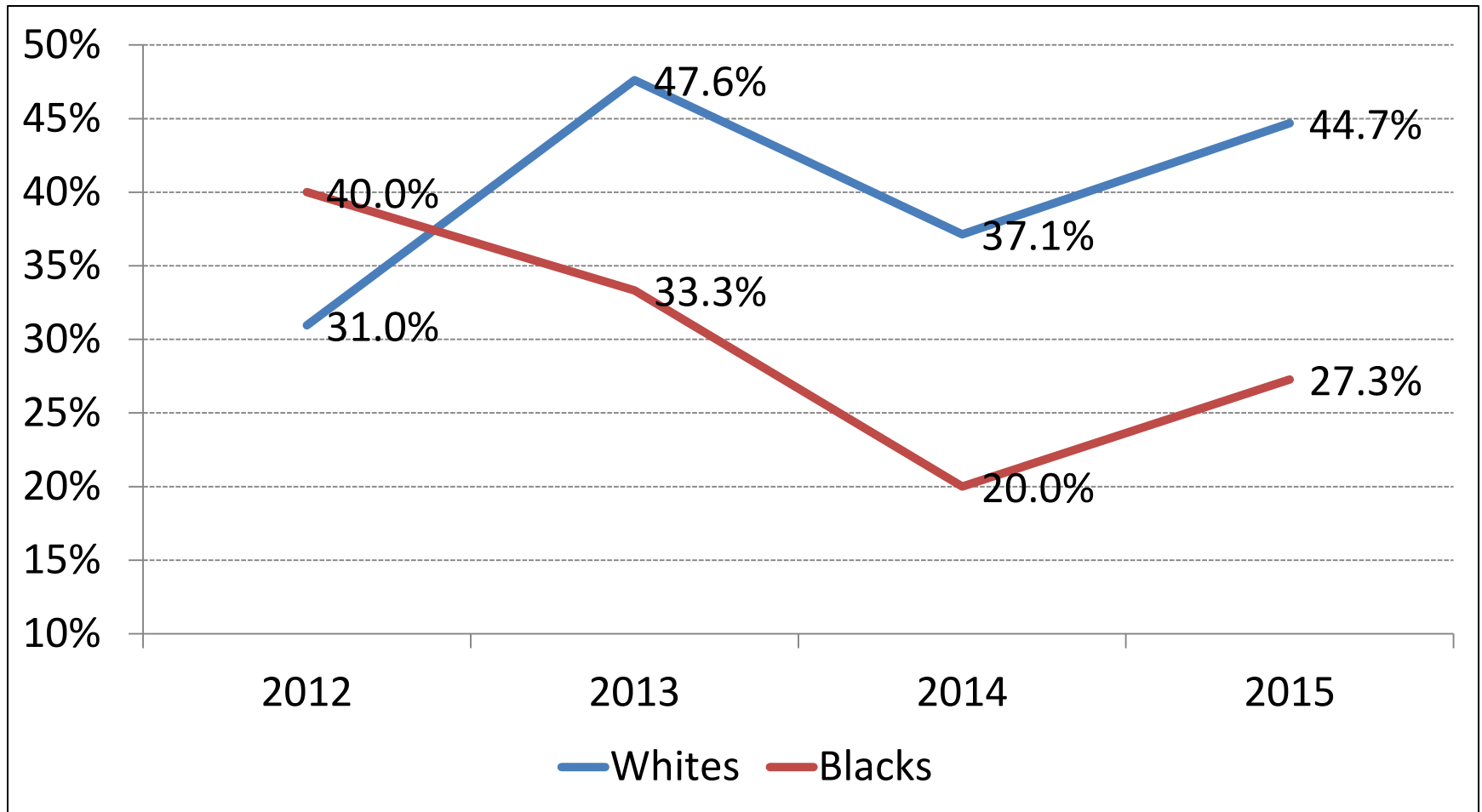
Black, Asian, and white search rates



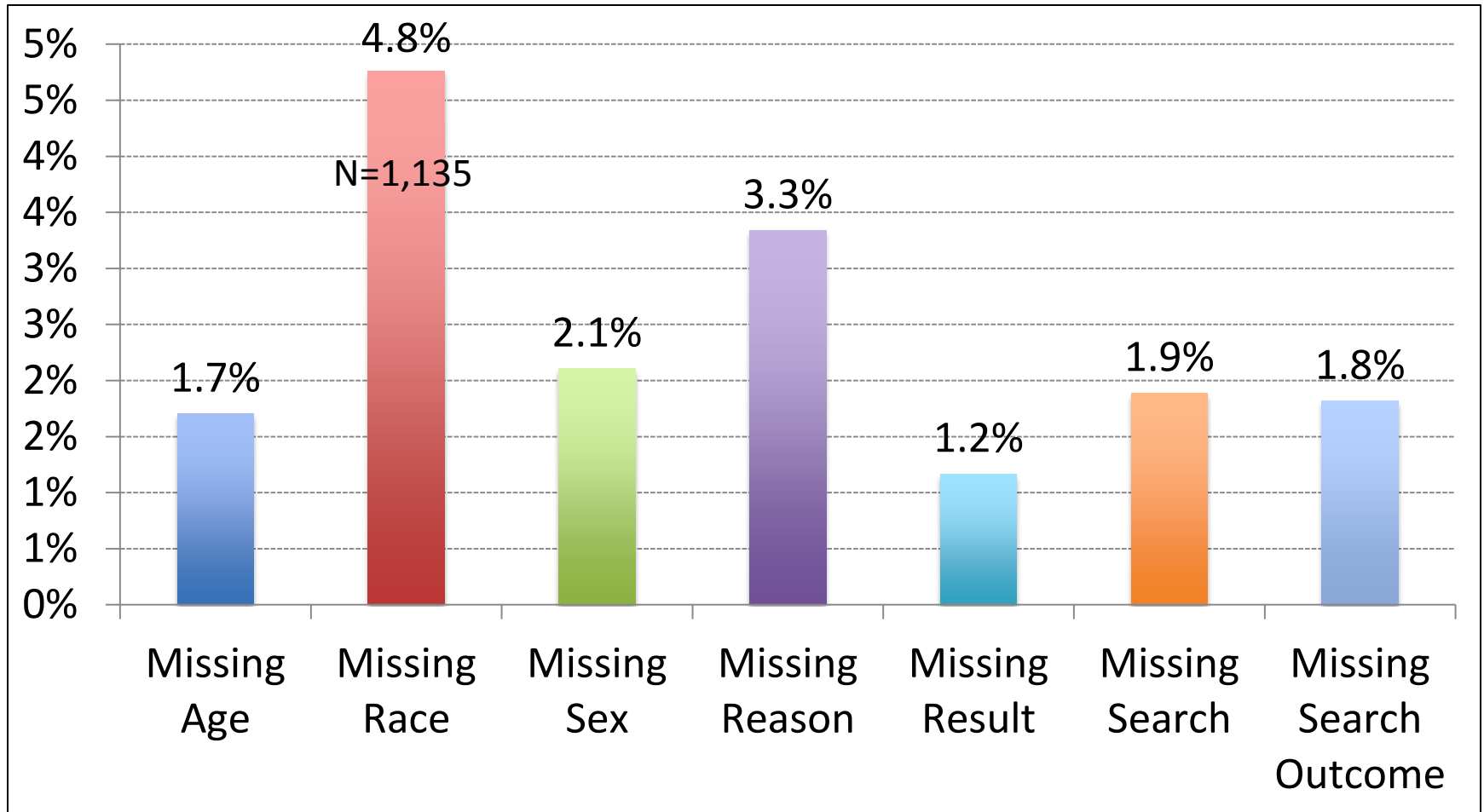
Black and white “hit” rates: All outcomes



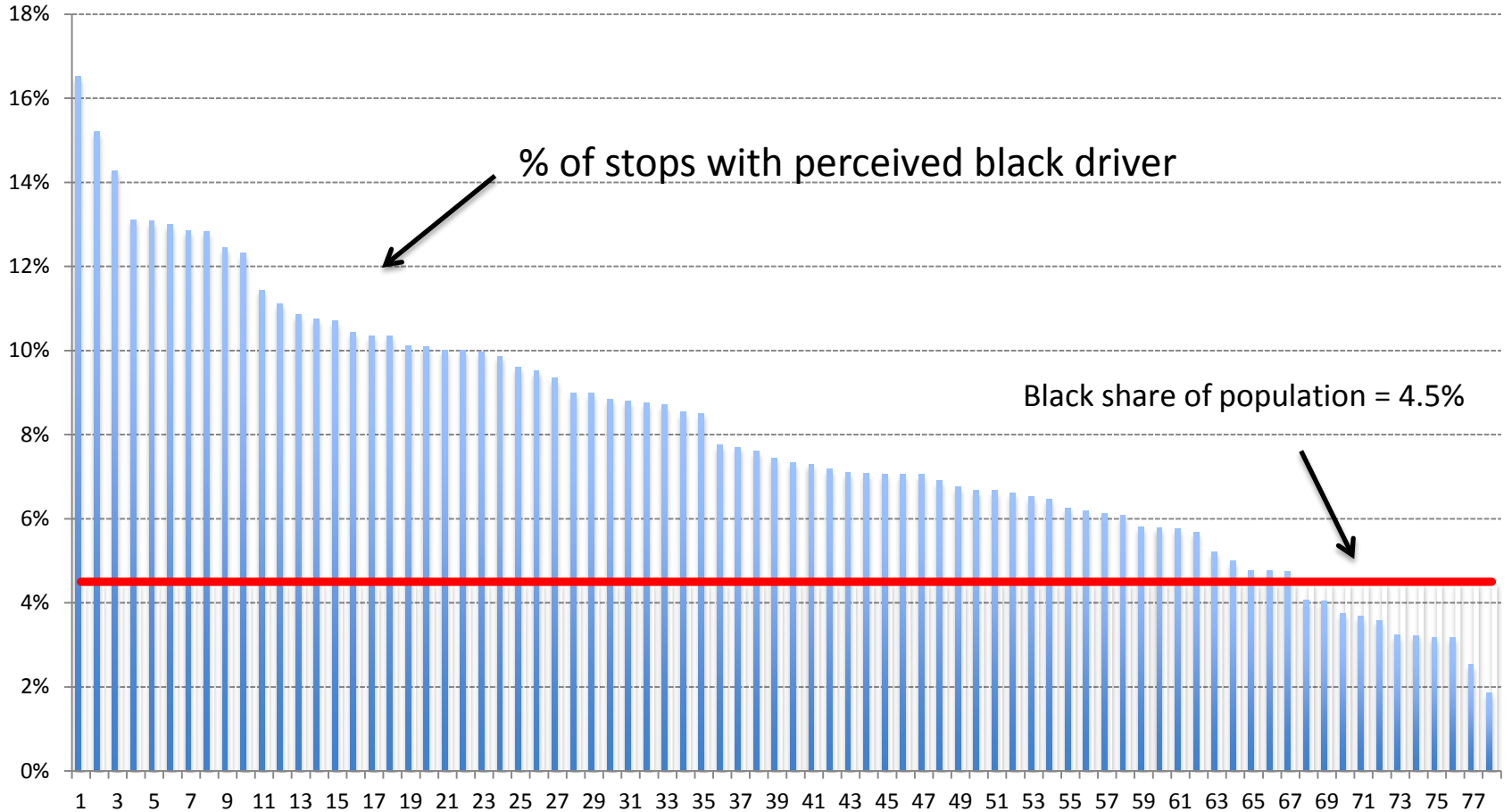
“Hit” rates that result in arrest or ticket (excludes warnings)



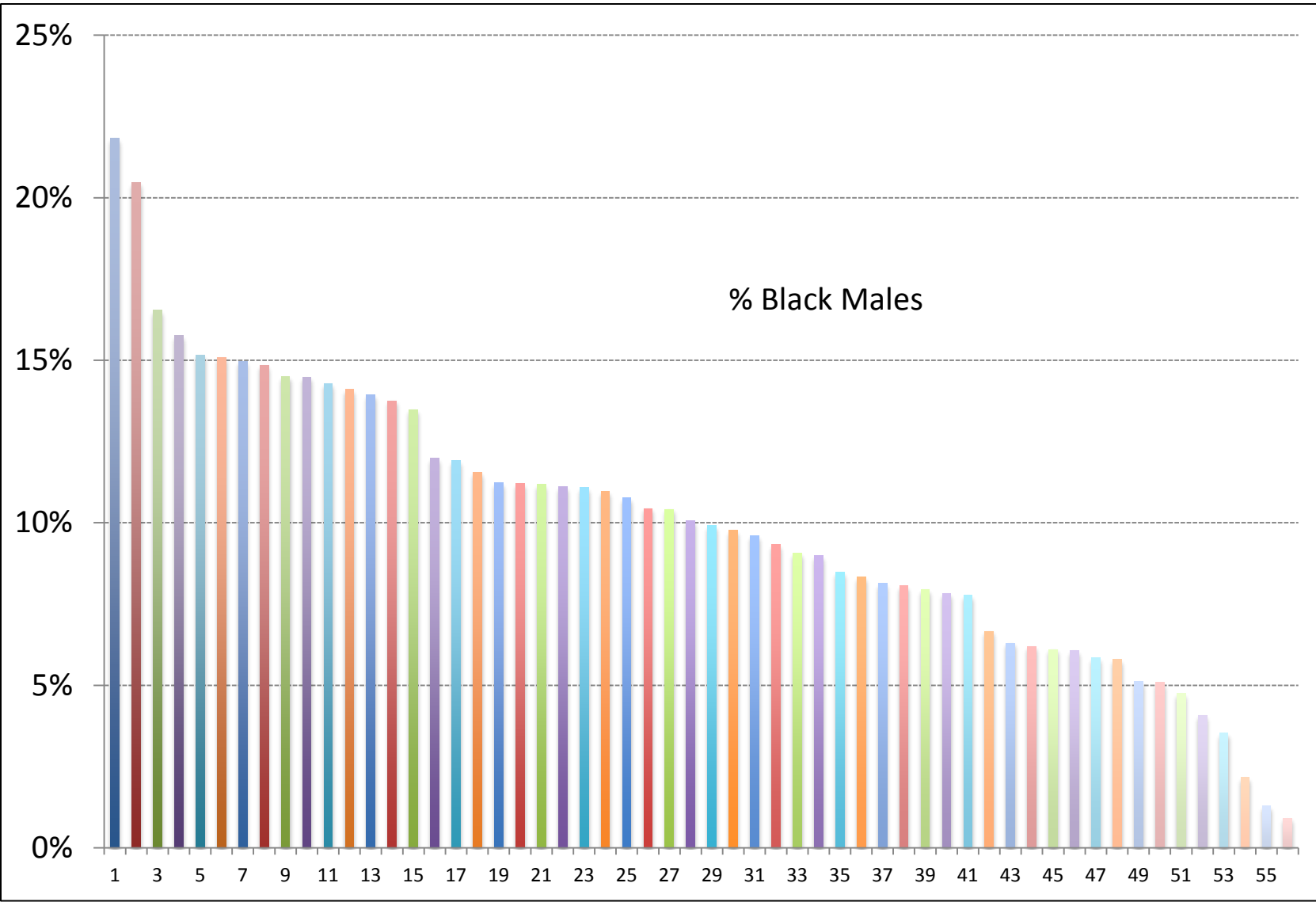
Data Quality: Missing data (includes “unknowns”)



Blacks as % of stops by officer, ranked high to low, 80 stops+

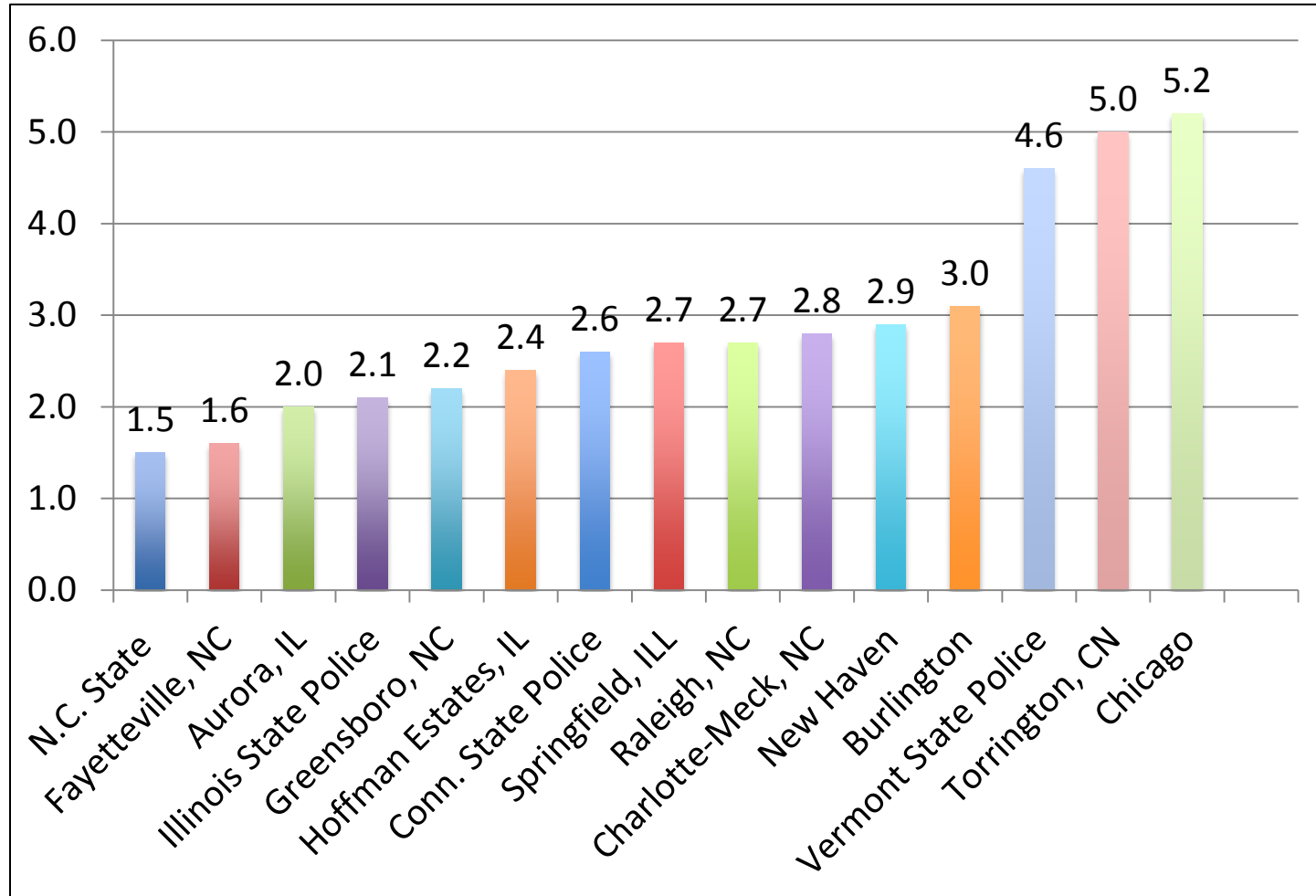


Black Males as % of Stops by Officer, 80+



How Does Burlington Compare?

Black search rates/White search rates, 2012-15



Raw Data for 2012-15

All Years	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic
Tickets	5,571	671	238	47
Warnings	13,709	1,151	662	111
Arrests	235	26	10	0
Searches	189	52	1	7
Hits (searches w/contraband) & ticket or arrest	77	16	0	0
Hits (searches w/contraband) & warning, ticket, or arrest	120	24	0	2
Hit despite No Search recorded	42	1	4	0